

## **Minutes of the State Board of Health**

January 8, 2003

A meeting of the Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) was held at the WestCoast Olympia Hotel at 2300 Evergreen Park Drive, Washington. The public meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m., by Board Chair Linda Lake, who addressed the attendees with the following statement:

“This is a public meeting of the SBOH held under provision of RCW 43.20. Notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with provisions of RCW 34.05, the Administrative Procedures Act. Those members having any conflict of interest on any item coming before the Board will report that conflict with respect to the particular subject under consideration. In case of challenge of any Board members by the public, the Board shall decide the status of the challenged members to participate before considering the substance of the matter.

Copies of all materials supplied to the Board for today’s meeting have been available since close of business last Friday from the Board’s Olympia office and on the Board’s Web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/sboh](http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh). They are also available today, along with anything else we have received since, at the table in the back of the room. To conserve public funds, we have only made as many copies as we feel will be needed, so we may run out of some particularly popular items. If you do not find a document you need, please ask Executive Assistant Desiree Robinson, or another Board staff person for one.

Our meeting today is open to the public, so please feel free to listen in on informal discussions involving Board members or staff, including any that may occur during breaks or lunch.”

### **SBOH members present:**

Linda Lake, MBA, Chair  
Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH  
Thomas H. Locke, MD, MPH  
The Honorable Carolyn Edmonds  
Charles Chu, DPM

David Crump, PhD  
Carl Osaki, RS, MSPH  
Joe Finkbonner, R.Ph., M.H.A.  
Jackson Williams

### **SBOH members absent:**

Ed Gray, MD

### **State Board of Health Staff present:**

Don Sloma, Executive Director  
Craig McLaughlin, Senior Health Policy Manager  
Doreen Garcia, Senior Health Policy Advisor  
Marianne Seifert, Health Policy Advisor  
Desiree Robinson, Executive Assistant  
Jennifer Dodd, Assistant to the Board  
Melissa Burke-Cain, Board Counsel, Office of the Attorney General

### **Guests and Other Participants:**

Barrett, Tony - Lewis County Health  
Brewster, Joan - Department of Health

Campbell, Dennis - Department of Health  
Church, Tim - Department of Health  
Clifford, Denise - Department of Health

Coburn, Juli - Wyeth Vaccines  
 Davis, Michelle - Department of Health  
 Dzedzy, Ed - Lincoln County Health  
 Erickson, John - Department of Health  
 Fay, Larry - Jefferson County Health & Human Services  
 Green, James - Cle Elum Citizen  
 Grunenfelder, Gregg - Department of Health  
 Guichard, Maryanne - Department of Health  
 Hammond, Steve - UW School of Public Health  
 Higman, Keith - Island County Health Department  
 Janice Adair, Department of Health  
 Kirkpatrick, Vicki - WSALPHO  
 Kounts, John - DOH Water Supply Advisory Committee, WA PUD Association Committee  
 Lilja, Jack - Department of Health

Mason, Maria - Bainbridge Island Concerned Citizen  
 Mauer, Barb - MCPP Consulting  
 Mero, Jeff - Association of Washington Public Health Districts  
 Pearson, Kate - Wyeth Vaccines  
 Reading, Jeff - Washington Restaurant Association  
 Sanders, Katharine - Washington Health Foundation  
 Simon Keith - Cle Elum Citizen  
 Simon, Thelma - Cle Elum Citizen  
 Speelman, Lois - Department of Health  
 Starry, Art - Thurston County Health  
 Tebaldi, Jennifer - Department of Health  
 Thayer, Jack - NWCPHP, UW  
 Thronson, Gayle - Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion: Approve January 8, 2003 agenda*

*Motion/Second: Crump/Locke*

*Approved unanimously*

### **ADOPTION OF December 10, 2002 MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion: Approve the December 10, 2002 minutes as written including draft errata statement*

*Motion/Second: Crump/Finkbonner*

*Approved unanimously*

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE**

Jack Williams, Assistant Secretary, DOH sitting in for Secretary of Health and SBOH Member Mary Selecky) provided an update about Department of Health activities. He discussed development and implementation of the state's smallpox plan. Mr. Williams invited comments from John Erickson. Mr. Erickson, DOH Director of Public Health Preparedness and Response, explained the reparations for a smallpox event. Mr. Erickson described the role of pilot clinics in the smallpox plan, and the changes in implementation dates. A discussion followed about when elected officials will be vaccinated, the focus on other bacteria that might be associated with a bioterrorism event, how information on evaluating smallpox vaccination risks would be disseminated to the public, and the need to focus on the general protection that comes from a competent public health workforce and system.

Mr. Williams reviewed the DOH and OFM budget proposal process, including references to funds going to local health departments. Carolyn Edmonds, Board of Health Member, asked if the Governor intended to fund local public health through cuts in the Basic Health Plan. Mr. Williams replied that that connection is difficult to make, but that both come from the Health Services Account. Don Sloma, Executive Director, Washington State Board of Health, described the role of tobacco tax revenue in the Health Services Account. Ms. Edmonds asked for bullet points for Board members that explained the budget. Mr. McLaughlin referred to the Governor's Office's explanations of its priority setting. Vickie

Ybarra, Board of Health Member also asked for the Governor's budget priorities as well as Health Services Account information. Board staff agreed to get this information to the Board.

### **SBOH STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BUSINESS**

Don Sloma referred to the memo regarding local board of health minutes and other materials behind Tab 4, and mentioned the Board's intention to meet more often with local boards of health. He also highlighted items in the agenda FYI section behind Tab 1.

Board recessed at 10:15 a.m. for 10 minutes.

### **OVERVIEW OF 2002 PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PHIP) REPORT**

Mr. Sloma provided an overview of the requirements for the Public Health Improvement Plan (PHIP) as provided in statute. Joan Brewster, DOH Director of Public Health Systems Planning and Development, presented an overview of the PHIP (See Tab 5). Ms. Brewster explained that the PHIP Partnership includes DOH, the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO), WSOH, and the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice at the University of Washington. She then discussed the accomplishments and next steps of each of the PHIP committees and the findings to be included in the 2002 PHIP Report. Board members discussed the importance and merits of the PHIP and asked questions about the PHIP standards.

### **PHIP WORKFORCE TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

Jack Thompson, Director, Northwest Center for Public Health Practice distributed and discussed the handout, "Current Projects," by the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice. Mr. Thompson discussed the work of the PHIP Workforce Development Committee. He spoke about development of core competencies for the public health workforce and the steps to assess public health personnel in terms of the core competencies.

### **PHIP STANDARD ASSESSMENT RESULTS**

Ms. Brewster and Mr. Williams explained the development and purpose of the PHIP standards. Barbara Mauer, Senior Consultant, MCPP Healthcare Consulting, presented the findings of the Baseline Evaluation of the Standards for Public Health in Washington State (see Tab 7). The Board discussed the term "PHIP standards" and the intent behind the standards. Board members indicated an interest in continuing the discussion at a latter date.

### **PHIP FINANCE**

Vickie Kirkpatrick, Executive Director of WSALPHO, provided an historical perspective on local public health funding in Washington. The Governor's proposed budget for the 2003-05 biennium includes \$48 million for the so-called "I-695 back fill" public health funding, the same funding level for that purpose contained in the 2001-03 biennial budget.

Lois Speelman, DOH Acting Assistant Secretary of Financial Services, presented an overview of the PHIP Finance Committee Activities. (See the handout, "Appendix 5: Public Health Activities.) Board members discussed public health financing issues, the composition of public health jurisdictions, ways change can be implemented in the state, and the potential impact of those changes to the system.

Ms. Brewster reminded the Board that the public health system formed over time, and was not created as a coordinated system. The PHIP is intended to help assure that Washington has an effective coordinated system.

Adjourned for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened 1:32 p.m.

### **FOOD CODE RULE REVISION PROCESS UPDATE**

Carl Osaki, Board of Health Member, directed the Board to the materials behind Tab 9 and introduced Jennifer Tebaldi, DOH Director of the Food Safety & Shellfish Program. Ms. Tebaldi reviewed the recent food code revisions process and related legislation. She then provided an update of where we are in the revision process (see “Food Code Revision Update, December 2002”), including the DOH request legislation that would reference the USDA Food Code in state statute. She discussed an effort by the food industry, local health, Washington State Association of Counties and other stakeholders to form an advisory group—a Food Safety Review Council—that would provide for consistent advisory interpretations of the food code and recommend future changes. DOH proposes to present a detailed outline of the process in March. Dr. Tom Locke, Board of Health Member, asked about items that are in the state code but are not addressed in the federal code. Ms. Tebaldi gave potlucks as an example.

### **SCHOOL INDOOR AIR QUALITY (IAQ) RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Osaki reported back on discussions from a committee formed to recommend Board activities related to school indoor air quality. He noted that the Board had received an updated and revised memo on the subject. He then introduced WSBOH Staff Marianne Seifert, who reviewed the history of the Board’s recent involvement in the issue. (See memo distributed at the meeting.) Mr. Osaki then described the committee recommendations in the memo about the role of the Board in addressing school environmental health concerns. Ms. Ybarra thanked Mr. Osaki for his leadership on this issue. Board members asked clarification questions, which Mr. Osaki addressed.

***Motion: Adopt the recommendations in the revised memo presented at the Board meeting.***

***Motion/Second: Osaki (for the committee)***

***Approved unanimously***

Mr. Osaki noted that the committee would accepted a recommendation from Dave Crump, Board of Health Member, that the recommendations be worded to include only closures specifically related to environmental health and air quality concerns (not snow days).

### **WEST NILE VIRUS BRIEFING**

Chair Lake explained why and how she had asked staff to examine the public health response to West Nile virus (WNV). Ms. Seifert directed the Board to the memo behind Tab 11, and she introduced the other panelists.

Jack Lilja, Manager, Local Health Support Section, DOH provided a brief background on the history of WNV, department activities over the last couple years, and what is likely occur in the near future (see slide presentation.)

Maryann Guichard, Manager of the Environmental Health and Safety Office, said that Mr. Lilja would be retiring in February and she will be picking up on his work until they are able to fill his position.

Lou Dooley, Director of Environmental Health for the Clark County Health Department and Director of the Clark County Mosquito Control District, said he appreciated the Board's interest in the issue. He said DOH has done a great job getting the word out; the problem is that the money has not been getting out. He said low priority programs, like school health and vector control, have gone away when money is tight. Clark County, he said, does have resources because it has had a mosquito control district since 1984. He explained some of the things the district is doing to address the problem. One of the resources issues, he said, is how long it takes to get a dead bird report back from the out-of-state lab.

Larry Fay, Director of Environmental Health, Jefferson County Health and Human Services spoke as a representative of a local health jurisdiction (LHJ) without mosquito control resources in place. Jefferson County has no mosquito control district (MCD) in place, which may limit the ability to do mosquito control in response to WNV. He said the support provided by DOH has been invaluable, and the state has been ahead of the curve from a knowledge standpoint. Jefferson County is concerned about the complexity of control efforts—funding, permitting, timing, etc. It will be a challenge to coordinate control issues locally, he said. He said he has expressed concerns in a variety of venues about the ability of local jurisdictions to address problems on private lands, and that local jurisdictions may require more support from the DOH because it has more specific authority,

Mr. Dooley said that while this is a not a bioterrorism event, it will become a “weapon of mass disruption” and LHJs would be called upon to answer an overwhelming number of questions.

Dr. Locke expanded on the local perspective. This issue, he said, ties into the earlier discussion about the vision of a fully functional public health system and the fact that the system has about a third of the money it needs. He noted that the time frame required to set up a MCD does not correlate well with an urgent public demand. We are attempting to respond to a centralized problem using a decentralized system. He said both state and local entities must use their respective powers in a synchronized fashion.

Chair Lake iterated the Board's interest and concern in this issue. Mr. Sloma asked if the Board had any sense that it might want to communicate about this. Mr. Crump questioned whether local boards of health are fully informed. Mr. Dooley said a problem has been getting information out to all the county and state agencies that will be affected by this. Those agencies acting together could help interest lawmakers. Chair Lake suggested she could put this on the agenda for her meetings with local boards.

#### **PROPOSED “SENSE OF THE ROAD” ON POSSIBLE 2003 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

Craig McLaughlin, WSBOH Staff distributed a draft list of potential legislative policy issues for the Board to consider. He referred the Board to the revised Policy and Procedure 001, “Identifying, Monitoring, and Communicating with the Legislature about Legislation Relevant to the State Board of Health,” found in Tab 12. The Board reviewed and discussed the list. The discussion focused on the category Public Health Funding. The Board wants to speak out about the need for stable public health funding. Board members are very concerned about the need for public health capacity to provide basic services, to respond to emerging issues raised by the public as well as emergency issues. The needs are expanding while the budget is not. Mr. Osaki will work with Board staff to craft the language on public health funding. Individual issues can be used to demonstrate the need for stable funding.

***Motion: The Board approves the draft “Sense of the Board on Legislative Policy Issues” with revisions discussed by the Board. Board member Carl Osaki will work with SBOH staff to revise the document.***

*Motion/second: Crump/Finkbonner*  
*Approved unanimously*

#### **REPORT ON GROUP “B” DRINKING WATER SURVEY**

Mr. Osaki introduced a panel that presented and discussed a report on the Group B Drinking Water Survey. The panel includes Gregg Grunenfelder, Drinking Water Division Director, DOH, Keith Higman, Environmental Health Director, Island County Health Department, John Kounts, Water Program Director, Washington PUD Association and DOH Water Supply Advisory Committee, and Ed Dzedzy, Environmental Health Director, Lincoln County Health Department. See the Power Point presentation in Tab 13.

#### **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Mariah Mason, citizen concerned about Cle Elum. Ms. Mason stated that this was a monumental moment because she has worked on the issue of school indoor air for nine years. She thanked the Board for its action. Ms. Mason asked the Board to now consider what to do for the population of students and teachers who got sick by the contaminated school indoor air. She distributed recommendations

Thelma Simon, citizen from Cle Elum. Ms. Simon expressed dismay over the funding to clean up school indoor air problems and the impact on students and teachers. She talked about the misuse of funds meant to assure safe school indoor air. She wants public schools built correctly.

Keith Simon, citizen from Cle Elum. Mr. Simon talked about how people responsible for school maintenance do not adequately deal with protecting the school indoor air. Mr. Simon thanked the Board for its attention and action.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Lake adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Lake", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Linda Lake, Chair